



Men of To-day.



Hon. Mackenzie King. The Minister of Labor.

Hon. Mackenzie King, the Canadian Minister of Labor, was one of the speakers at the sixteenth annual Lake Mohouk Conference on International Arbitration, held a short time ago, and received great applause when he suggested that the centenary of peace between Canada and the United States, that takes place in 1914, should be celebrated by the erection of a great bridge or monument at Niagara Falls. The Rush-Bagot treaty of 1817, he pointed out, in making it unnecessary to fortify the boundary line of over 3,000 miles between Canada and the United States, has been an example to all the world of the priceless advantages of an agreement for disarmament. During the conference, an official announcement from Secretary Knox was read, stating that the great Judicial Arbitration Court is now an accomplished fact, and is likely to be in actual existence, if not in session, within two years. It is said that England, Germany, France, Russia, Austria, Hungary and Italy have already accepted the proposal to enter the court.

George E. Hoxie, of Westerly, R. I., is one of the many who believe that it is to a farmer's advantage to encourage birds to come about his place, but he supplements believing by doing. He has on his homestead over twenty bird-houses, all occupied, and by encouragement he has also induced a great number of others to nest in his trees. As a result, he believes that his annual income has been appreciably augmented, especially the fruit crops, which have been largely protected from insect pests by the birds.

For some time there has been a growing feeling in Canada that more attention should be paid to industrial education in the Dominion, and it now appears that definite steps have been taken. At a banquet in Berlin last week, it was announced by Hon. Mackenzie King that a Royal Commission has been formed to investigate the needs in this direction, and with power to study the subject in all the provinces. Prof.

Jas. W. Robertson, formerly of Ste. Anne de Bellevue Macdonald College, is one of the Commissioners, and may be trusted to look well to those phases of the subject bearing upon agricultural progress.

"Fifteen thousand foreign girls and 45,000 native-born are victims every year of the white-slave traffic." This statement, made some months ago by Hon. E. W. Sims, forms the opening announcement of the annual pamphlet, "Canada's War on the White Slave Trade," issued by Rev. J. G. Shearer, Secretary of the Moral and Social Reform Council of Canada.

The numbers involved, covering Canada and the United States only, are sufficiently startling, and although but little is generally known of this nefarious traffic in the quiet rural districts of our Dominion, the fact that country girls have been found among the "entrapped," should render the question of how to stamp out the evil a live one in the country as well as in the town. Indeed, the fact that within the past few weeks, several men and women have been arrested in different parts of Canada for "procuring," proves, even to the most skeptical, that the menace is at our very doors, and affords some revelation of the risk to which the most innocent girls, who find it necessary to take situations in cities, and who have not been forewarned and protected, may be exposed.

It should be superfluous to suggest that one way by which the country can best lend its help in the matter is by warning its daughters, and yet such suggestion is actually necessary, for in many places the parents are themselves ignorant of the horrible machinations of the "system," and how can they warn in regard to that of which they know nothing?

The usual plan of the "promoters" of the traffic is to advertise for help. Nurses, stenographers, seamstresses, domestic helpers—all are wanted—easy work—and good pay. With all confidence, the girls apply, and usually the parents are well pleased. Means, perhaps, are lacking in the home, and there are many mouths to feed.

Still trustful, the girl makes her way to the city, probably alone. A representative of the "firm," perhaps a man, perhaps a woman, meets her, and all seems well. At the next step she is within a house of shame. Locked doors, barred windows, withheld street garments, prevent escape, while drugs and brutality do their debasing, enslaving, crushing work. Afterwards, the girl, ashamed to tell of her true condition, withholds the truth, or is compelled to write home that she is "doing well." "Five years, on the average," ends it. "Five drinks, drugs and disease do rapidly their deadly work."

Girls have been coaxed by the same or kindred methods to the Continent, to Alaska, to most of the larger cities of the United States. Nor has Canada kept her skirts clear. Consignments, literally consignments, of girls have been sent for the same purpose to the mining camps of New Ontario, to the Yukon, and to every city of the Dominion which does not vigorously suppress prostitution, or which is segregated, or "red-light" areas, are tolerated by simply "blowing the whistle." The Steamer Societies, for example, Halifax, Montreal, Winnipeg, and a number of the cities of the Atlantic Provinces.

Increasingly, of late years, bands of good men and women have set themselves to outwit the plotters. At many depots, a woman wearing a badge, to identify her as a member of a Christian society, has been stationed to keep watch for young girls who seem "lost," or are not met by friends. In some places, persistent raids on dens of iniquity are made, and in the United States laws have been framed providing that any alien women found in such environment shall be deported to the country from which they have come, as "undesirables." It is enlightening, if distressing, to learn that of late, of 100 girls in disreputable houses in Boston, about one-third came from Canada, while of girls deported from the segregated area of Pittsburg, nearly a score were Canadians. These are but two samples, taken at random.

Those who wish to inquire further into the subject, may refer to Dr. Shearer's pamphlet, or write to him, to the headquarters of the Moral and Social Reform Council of Canada, Confederation Life Building, Toronto. But from even this brief reference to his booklet, does it not appear clear enough that parents have a duty to perform towards those of their children who would take situations in the city? A little warning, a little searching inquiry, the safe guardianship of parent or relative, until the situation is known to be genuine—are not these but reasonable precautions? Trustfulness is sometimes a desirable virtue, but the strange world cannot be trusted. In this, as in many other things, it must be proved.

The Windrow.

The Countess of Warwick is undertaking an attempt to con-olidate the Social Democratic Party, the Fabian Society, and the Independent Labor Party into one English Socialist body.

In 1907 the City of Portland, Oregon, undertook to set out 250,000 rose bushes within three years. The task has been fully accomplished, and a great rose festival will be held during the week of June 6-11.

Last month, two Chinese, who were trying to negotiate with the Standard Oil Company for the sale of some land outside of a city in Hu-nan, were beaten to death by a mob. Evidently, China is in active sympathy with the prosecution of the Big Game.

Like his father, King George is shorter than his wife. He is a tireless walker, and fond of the woods and country life, as well as of the sea.

The exact spot upon the heavens on which Halley's comet should appear was foretold by magnificent calculation by two Greenwich astronomers, Cowell and Cromwell, upon certain plates exposed to the light of the sky, the image of which, the first to announce the coming of the comet, Dr. Wolf, of Heidelberg, saw in 1835.

Prof. McFadyen, of King's College, has accepted an appointment as United Free Church minister at Glasgow.

A prize of \$10,000 was offered for an airship, designed to fly from St. Louis, and on the 25th of August a flight from New York was made.

Hon. Duncan McLeod, Minister of Agriculture, has been appointed Alberta Minister of Education.

Our English Letter.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE OLDEST TOWN IN ENGLAND.

When I was leaving Canada, a friend said to me, "Surely, when you find yourself in Devonshire, you will not come away again without visiting Totnes, one of the most ancient and interesting spots in all England?" In addition to this advice, she kindly added a carefully-prepared little programme, which, alas, I could but follow in part, as my time was very limited. It was too provoking to be obliged to allot only a few hours to a place which would have required many days to have explored thoroughly, but, all the same, it is astonishing how much can be accomplished when one decides to make the best of one's limitations, especially when the sun shines brightly, as if to encourage one's efforts, and when every step one takes is pregnant with the promise of even better things in store. I had started from Teignmouth by an early train, and had revelled in the sight of the wildflowers which had garlanded the banks through which we had passed only too quickly. Primroses in profusion; violets peeping out between yellow daffodils as a carpet of gold, and graceful ferns keeping them company. I could not help wondering whether or no the grim warriors of those early days, when Judhel de Totnais first received his grant of the Borough of Totnes from William the Conqueror, had eyes for the beauties of Nature, or whether they took no heed of them, living, as they must have lived, under the unwritten but fully recognized law of "What we have we hold," and it must have taken all their time to do that.

THE ANTIQUITY OF TOTNES.

There is no question as to the right of Totnes to the title of the oldest town in England. Many places claim that they were borough towns when larger localities, which have since grown into cities, were mere bits of "fuzzy down," but with Totnes this is no empty boast, for its record stands on the pages of Domesday Book, and on other archives, and when, some years ago, the Lord Mayor of London gave a banquet to all the mayors of towns (not cities) in England, to the mayor of Totnes was accorded precedence as representing the oldest town of all.

Its previous history is such a mixture of truth and fable that it is lost in the mists of antiquity, but tradition has it that Brutus of Troy landed at Totnes, and colonized it after his own rough fashion, a large Stone known as the Brutus stone, standing in a prominent position today, to commemorate the fact, if fact there be. The local belief in the story is testified to by the still existing custom of its being the duty of the mayor, on the ascension of a new sovereign, to make the public proclamation that great national event, and to plant the Brutus Stone in the Fore Square.

Totnes was a walled town, its walls, many indications, but only four of its original gates remain, and as they were originally built, the hand of time had done much upon them, but by the late 18th century, the east gate had been replaced by an arched portal, one for which the walls were enclosed with gates, and a